

during the month of April 1999. Hear O'Israel works to make a difference in the lives of the disabled, battered and abused women, the elderly and young people across Houston. They work to give these men and women a stronger sense of self-worth and instill in them the need to treat others with compassion and respect. The following resolution approved by the Houston City Council demonstrates the high regard for Hear O'Israel in our community.

LISTEN TO THE CRIES OF THE CHILDREN
NATIONAL

A non-profit, non denominational organization, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed its Listen to the Cries of the Children National campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families. The campaign's goal is "for everyone to Hear and Listen to the cries; stop violence; have mercy, love, and compassion for our fellow man, and turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers hence, linking the family together and creating the connection that should be present between every parent and child."

The Listen to the Cries of the Children National campaign strives to focus public attention on the plight of children around the world who are abused, neglected, or physically challenged; and who does not have adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care and all children, young and old, who are crying out for help. As part of its ongoing effort to help suffering children, I fear O'Israel International, Inc. has been going into schools and detention homes, campaigning with former gang members who were shot and, after becoming quadriplegic, are taking with them the evidence and consequences of their actions in order to help the children to become aware of the price they are paying. Hear O'Israel International, Inc. has also conducted community-oriented programs to help more children become aware of the negative consequences of gang involvement and drug and alcohol abuse.

The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Houston do hereby salute Hear O'Israel International, Inc. for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and external best wishes for continued success.

Approved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Houston this 8th day of April, 1999, A.D.

CONGRATULATING DEANNE MEYERS
FOR OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Meyers on receiving the Friends of Agricultural Extension's "Award for Outstanding Achievement."

The "Award for Outstanding Achievement" is designed to identify and bring broad recognition to educational programs devised by University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Farm Advisors and Specialists that

represent the most significant contributions to production, agriculture and the consuming public.

Ms. Meyers is a UC Davis-based Cooperative Extension Waste Management Specialist. She represents the University on an inter-agency work-group for confined animal feeding operations. Deanne presented her program on the subject, "Environmental Stewardship Short Course for California Dairy Operators." She is recognized for her research which addresses key areas of environmental concern to dairy operators throughout California. Through her research, Ms. Meyers has focused on creating a balance between the current requirements of agricultural producers and possible future requirements by disseminating information to dairy producers regarding their obligations and liabilities for compliance with water quality regulations.

Five other finalists are also honored: Lonnie Hendricks, Merced County, "Integrated Pest Management in Almonds;" Steve Koike, Monterey County, "Unique County-based Plant Pathology Lab;" Neil McDougald, Madera County, "Rangeland Water Quality Research and Education Program;" Michael McKenry, Kearney Ag. Center, "Orchard Replant Problems and their Management;" and Ron Vargas, Madera County, "Cotton Week Management." Every program submitted is vitally important to production agriculture and every participant received at least one "first" from individual members of the panel.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Meyers as Winner of the "Award for Outstanding Achievement," and recognize each of the five finalists, Steve Koike, Neil McDougald, Michael McKenry, and Ron Vargas. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Meyers and each of the finalists best wishes for a bright future and continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY DARIN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walden Robert Cassotto for all the joy that he gave to the world through his talent, music, and generosity. He will be honored on his birthday, May 14.

Known as Bobby Darin, Walden Robert Cassotto was born in Harlem on May 14, 1936. For most of his young life he lived at 629 East 135th Street in the Bronx. He attended PS 43 and Elijah D. Clark Junior and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science in January 1953, at the tender age of 16. Darin's first paying musical job was at a school dance at Bronx Science. For their performance, Bob and his band mates were reportedly paid "twenty cents and a stick of gum each," a rather inauspicious start to what would turn out to be a brilliant career. Just a few years out of high school, Bobby Darin would find fame and fortune.

Mr. Speaker, between the ages of 8 and 12, Bobby suffered of rheumatic fever four times. In those days, there was no effective treat-

ment for the disease. During one of his bouts with the illness, Bobby overheard the doctor tell his mother that he wouldn't live to see his 16th birthday. From then on, the young man became driven to succeed. He wanted desperately to leave his mark on the world.

Blessed with talent and determination, Bobby Darin would see his dream come to fruition. With his musical gifts, and his intuitive acting ability, and by the sheer force of his personality, Bobby Darin did indeed become a legend in his own time.

On December 2, 1959, Darin was the subject of Ralph Edwards' "This is Your Life." One of the gifts bestowed upon Bobby that night was the establishment of The Bobby Darin Award at Bronx Science—a medal presented to outstanding music students at Bobby's old high school until it lapsed in 1965. Sadly, on December 20, 1973, at the age of 37, Bobby Darin passed away following heart surgery. He left a son, Dodd.

Mr. Speaker, for me, Bobby Darin was more than a great singer. He added great musical joy to my world with his style and grace, the lyrics of his songs, and his music. His first major hit came in 1958 with "Splish Splash" and "Mack the Knife" which exploded onto the charts, rocketing to number 1, and stayed there for months.

Bobby inspired me and so many other young people from the Bronx. He had a remarkable passion for life, tenacity to accomplish what he was set to do, great courage and sensitivity. I can remember how proud we were in the Bronx to know that he came from our own Borough.

Mr. Speaker, May 14, 1999 has been proclaimed "Bobby Darin Day" in the Bronx by Bronx Borough President, Fernando Ferrer and, at the Bronx Science Spring Concert, the school's alumni association will revive the Bobby Darin award as a scholarship for talented music students. What a fitting tribute.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great American artist and in wishing the Bobby Darin Award Committee continued success.

HONORING AZTECA BOXING TEAM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the longtime success of a group that has provided a valuable community resource in helping to teach many youths discipline and character. On May 7, local officials, family, and friends will gather to celebrate the Azteca Boxing Team of Pontiac, MI, for 25 years of service.

Twenty-five years ago, Pontiac resident Ruben Flores, a former Golden Gloves champion, envisioned an opportunity to give Pontiac youth a chance to help young people off of the streets and into positive activities that promoted self-esteem and responsibility. He was joined in this endeavor by Juventino Prieto, and the Azteca Boxing Team was born. In 1977, Flores and Prieto were joined by Robert Paramo as a coach, and the three of them

began a quarter of a century of teaching youth not only about boxing, but about dedication, physical well being, and pride in one's self and one's abilities.

Since 1973, over 2,800 young people have benefited from the programs that the Azteca Boxing Team has had to offer, many of whom have ventured and excelled in the field of professional boxing. The large volunteer staff they maintain assist in the children's total development, including educational guidance, diverse cultural experiences, and community activism and awareness. The group, an official non-profit organization, receives 98 percent of its funding from donations, including computers for their students, field trips, and more. The remaining 2 percent comes from a \$2 membership fee, however they have pledged never to turn away a child due to lack of funds.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions that the Azteca Boxing Team has given the Pontiac community is tremendous. Many of these youngsters owe their very lives to the impact that the group has made. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Ruben Flores, Juventino Prieto, and Robert Paramo for all their efforts.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR
GERALD CARDINALE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate state Senator Gerald Cardinale on receiving the prestigious Lincoln Award from the Woodcliff Lake Republican Club in recognition of his many years of service in the New Jersey Legislature and service to the community. This award is given to officials who epitomize the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and the ideals of the Republican Party. Senator Cardinale meets that test and clearly deserves this high honor in recognition of his hard work and dedication. Whether he is raising money for the Boy Scouts, attending to his dental practice or giving a speech on the Senate floor, he is one of New Jersey's finest public servants.

I have known Gerry Cardinale for many years and can tell you he is a gentleman of integrity and character. It has been a pleasure to work with him on projects of mutual concern in our home county of Bergen. He has been a source of sound advice and counsel. He has done much to make our community a good place to live, work, and raise a family.

Senator Cardinale has been a member of the state senate since 1981, following two years in the state assembly. He is currently deputy majority leader and, as chairman of the powerful and influential Senate Commerce Committee, presides over all legislation dealing with the business community, labor, insurance, industry and professions. Legislation he has sponsored to promote business and job development has included unemployment and automobile insurance reforms, lawsuit reform, tax relief for money market mutual funds, a 30-year rent control moratorium for new construction and government incentives for forma-

tion of corporate day care centers by the private sector.

Senator Cardinale has been involved in politics since he was elected to the Bergen County Republican Committee in 1962. He served as mayor of Demarest from 1974 to 1979 before being elected to the state assembly. He has been a delegate or alternate delegate to every Republican National Convention since 1980 except 1996 (when illness kept him from attending). He sought the Republican nomination for Governor in 1989.

Senator Cardinale is a true citizen legislator, operating his own dental practice in Fort Lee since 1959. He is a graduate of St. John's University and the New York University College of Dentistry. In addition to his political and professional careers, he has been active with many community organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, UNICO, the Sons of Italy, the Columbians and the Elks Club. A native of Brooklyn, he discovered the charms of New Jersey and moved to Fort Lee in 1960. He has lived in Demarest since 1964 and he and his wife, Carole, have raised five wonderful children in New Jersey—Marisa, Christine, Kara, Gary, and Nicole.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating my good friend Gerald Cardinale on this occasion and wishing him success in the future. He is a truly dedicated public servant who cares deeply about those in his community and does all in his power to improve life in the State of New Jersey.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. DOYLE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas J. Doyle, a valuable principal in my district who is retiring. Thomas Doyle is retiring after 42 years of dedicated service to the Chicago Public Schools.

Mr. Doyle has been the principal at Byrne Elementary School since September of 1989. He has administered the Chicago Board of Education since 1957, where he started his career at the Graham Elementary School as a physical education teacher. In addition to Mr. Doyle's work with the Chicago Board of Education, he was also an instructor at other educational institutions. He worked summers from 1967 to 1970 at the Pirie School Teacher training Workshops as an instructor for Audio-Visual Techniques. Mr. Doyle worked part time as an instructor for various institutions, including Chicago State University and Daley City College. Mr. Doyle is committed to numerous professional affiliations and activities including serving as a member of the State of Illinois Reading Subgoals Committee, International Reading Association, the State Evaluation Team for the Illinois Office of Education, and the Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA).

Mr. Doyle's fairness, generosity, and positive attitude generate a strong respect from his staff and students. Mr. Doyle is attentive to the needs and concerns of the students and par-

ents. As the leader of instructional activities, Mr. Doyle gives student recognition for academic achievement in the classroom. His positive reinforcement has boosted the morale of both the teachers and students of Byrne Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Doyle's forty-two years of commitment to our youth is certainly worthy of recognition. I know that the community joins me in thanking Mr. Doyle for his dedication to our children.

RECOGNITION OF DIANE
PONTICELLI, MOTHER TO 1,022
CHILDREN

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Diane Ponticelli, an eighty-year-old resident of Johnston, Rhode Island who recently received—for the second time—the key to her hometown, in commemoration of her thirty-five years of service and dedication to more than 1,000 children for whom she cared over the years.

This selfless, big-hearted woman has been, and still is, a mother to these children, and the adults they have become, in every positive sense of the word. She considers each and every one of them to be her own child and has always treated them accordingly. In a recent article in the Providence Journal, Mrs. Ponticelli remarked that she loves children and wishes she "could take care of more." I stand in awe of this woman and her incredible gift of unconditional love and acceptance to these children, who undoubtedly struggled through difficult family situations until finding the security provided in the Ponticelli home.

At one point, Mrs. Ponticelli had nine children staying in her house in Johnston, many placed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families. She took in entire families of children so that siblings would not be separated; she gave up her own bedroom for the children and slept on a couch near one of her physically-disabled charges; she cooked big Italian dinners and maintained three sheds, four freezers, and three refrigerators; all the while, she showered them love, practiced discipline, and provided them with a stable, caring home. Mrs. Ponticelli is now eighty years old, suffering from cancer, voiceless because of sickness, and small and frail, yet she remains a figure larger than life. Her capacity for love knows no bounds, and her children reflect that same sense of caring and devotion, visiting her often and caring for her in her illness.

We often decry cases in which our foster care system has run awry and allowed innocent children to fall through the cracks. Tragedies such as the recent shooting in Littleton, Colorado, force us to reexamine and reevaluate what we are teaching our children, at home and at school. As often as we lament these tragedies, however, we must celebrate the occasions in which the system and strong parenting work. We must recognize that when